

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
ORDER NO. R1-2007-0024

WDID NO. 1B800540MEN

FOR

MENDOCINO FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANY, LLC
FORMER FORT BRAGG SAWMILL
32600 HOLQUIST LANE
FORT BRAGG, CALIFORNIA

Mendocino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. The Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC (hereinafter Discharger) submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated March 15, 2005, and applied for renewal of its Waste Discharge Requirements to treat contaminated groundwater from its former sawmill located in Fort Bragg, California.
2. For the purposes of determining the appropriate annual fee, discharges regulated by these Waste Discharge Requirements are considered to have a threat to water quality rating of 2, and a complexity rating of B, as defined in section 2200 of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.
3. The Discharger owns a former sawmill site at 32600 Holquist Lane in Fort Bragg, California (hereafter, the site), latitude 39° 23' 00" N, longitude 123° 48' 22" W, as shown on Figure 1, incorporated herein and made part of this Order. The site is located approximately 3 miles south of Fort Bragg at the intersection of Gibney and Holquist Lanes and occupies an area of approximately 45 acres.

The site was used for lumber manufacturing and storage facilities, including a log yard, sawmill, lumber storage, and vehicle maintenance shop. In 2003, sawmill operations ceased. In 2005 and 2006, the sawmill building and additional buildings were demolished. The vehicle maintenance shop building and adjacent vehicle fueling operation are still used for fueling and storage of forestry vehicles and for chemical storage.

Storm water runoff at the site discharges to Bromley Creek, a coastal tributary, and to other unnamed coastal tributaries.

4. Discharges from this site were previously regulated under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-70 (adopted by the Regional Water Board on September 22, 2000), which was also a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES Permit No. CA0005886) for the discharge of storm water

associated with sawmill operations. With the cessation of mill activities, it is appropriate to rescind the NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with this site. If any future operational changes at the site require storm water permitting, it would be appropriate to have the Discharger obtain coverage under a statewide general storm water permit or a separate site-specific NPDES permit.

5. Groundwater at the site has been contaminated with fuels, solvents, and wood treatment chemicals. The constituents detected in groundwater samples include gasoline, diesel, chlorinated hydrocarbons, pentachlorophenol and tetrachlorophenol. Similar constituents were detected in domestic wells located at neighboring properties adjacent to the site. In 1992, eight well-head water treatment systems were installed on private wells located in the vicinity of the site. The well-head treatment systems are monitored and maintained by the Discharger.
6. These Waste Discharge Requirements regulate waste treatment and disposal through the operation of a Funnel and Gate groundwater treatment system.
7. The Funnel and Gate treatment system was installed in 1995 by the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (the site operator at that time) to remove low levels of wood treatment chemicals, volatile organic compounds, and petroleum hydrocarbons from groundwater. The Funnel and Gate treatment includes the following subsurface features: a hydraulic barrier (or Funnel) approximately 700 feet long; collection galleries; four carbon absorption treatment units (or Gates); and distribution galleries following treatment. Groundwater is collected in the galleries located upgradient of the barrier wall, funneled through carbon gates and through the wall, and then distributed on the west side of the barrier wall. Groundwater flows passively through the system and is not brought to the surface as part of the treatment. The carbon absorption treatment system is capable of removing petroleum, solvent, and wood treatment chemical contaminants from the groundwater such that the effluent will not contain detectable levels of the constituents of concern. The treatment system is designed to minimize effects to groundwater quantities available to the adjacent properties for domestic use. Groundwater is monitored through monitoring wells located on the site and at the Gates. Groundwater from the domestic water wells is also monitored. The location of the domestic and monitoring wells is depicted on Figure 2, incorporated herein and made part of this Order. The location of the groundwater treatment system is depicted on Figure 3, incorporated herein and made part of this Order.

8. The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) includes water quality objectives, implementation plans for point source and nonpoint source discharges, prohibitions, and statewide plans and policies.
9. Beneficial uses of groundwater in the area of the site include:
 - a. domestic water supply
 - b. agricultural water supply
 - c. industrial service supply
 - d. industrial process supply
10. Water quality objectives exist to ensure the protection of beneficial uses of water. Several beneficial uses of water exist, and the most stringent objective for protection of all beneficial uses is selected as protective for water quality. A listing of the water quality objectives for the constituents of concern in groundwater in the area of the site is included as Exhibit 1, incorporated herein and made part of this Order.
11. The permitted discharge is consistent with the antidegradation provision of 40 CFR 131.12 and State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 68-16. The impact on existing water quality will be insignificant.
12. The action to renew Waste Discharge Requirements is exempt from chapter 3 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., in accordance with section 13389 of the California Water Code, and is also exempt from CEQA pursuant to title 14, California Code of regulations, section 15301, as an existing facility.
13. The Regional Water Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written comments and recommendations.
14. The Regional Water Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2000-70, NPDES Permit No. CA0005886 is rescinded and the Discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

1. Creation of a pollution, contamination, or nuisance, as defined by section 13050 of the California Water Code is prohibited.
2. The discharge of groundwater with detectable levels of wood treatment chemicals, volatile organic compounds, or petroleum hydrocarbons through the "Gates" described in Finding 7 is prohibited.
3. The discharge of untreated groundwater from anywhere within the collection and treatment system is prohibited.

B. SPECIFICATIONS

1. Carbon units associated with the "Funnel and Gate" groundwater treatment system shall be maintained to prevent constituents of concern from breaking through the carbon. Consideration of the loading rates of constituents of concern and naturally occurring chemicals shall be included as part of the maintenance of the carbon units.
2. Replacement of carbon filters from the "Funnel and Gate" groundwater treatment system shall be in accordance with documents described in Geraghty and Miller's letter dated February 8, 1995.

C. PROVISIONS

1. The Discharger shall not cause the concentration of any constituent of concern associated with the site to exceed its respective concentration limit in any monitoring well located downgradient of the "Funnel and Gate" groundwater treatment system, and shall file a report of any exceedances within 30 days of determining the exceedance. Data analysis will be performed in accordance with the approved Monitoring and Reporting Order.
2. The Discharger shall prepare and submit to the Executive Officer an annual assessment report on the natural attenuation of constituents of concern in groundwater at the site. This report shall be submitted by November 1 of each year.
3. The beneficial uses of off-site groundwater west of the sawmill shall not be threatened or impaired by discharges associated with groundwater cleanup.

4. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Water Board in writing of any proposed change of ownership of or responsibility for the site or operation of the "Funnel and Gate" groundwater treatment system. This notification shall be given prior to the effective date of the change and shall include a statement by the new Discharger(s) that the operation will be in compliance with the existing Waste Discharge Requirements and any revisions thereof. Upon such notification, the Regional Water Board will amend the existing Waste Discharge Requirements to name the new Discharger(s).
5. After notice of and opportunity for hearing, this Order may be terminated or modified for cause, including but not limited to:
 - a. violation of any term or condition in this Order;
 - b. obtaining this Order by misrepresentation, or failure to fully disclose all relevant facts; and
 - c. a change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
6. Discharges not authorized under this Order, or any violation of any term or condition of this Order is subject to administrative or judicial enforcement action under the Water Code and other appropriate provisions of law.
7. Operation and Maintenance

The Discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility or control system installed by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the Waste Discharge Requirements.

8. Change in Discharge

The Discharger shall promptly report to the Regional Water Board any material change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

9. Change in Ownership

In the event of any change in control or ownership of land or waste discharge facilities presently owned or controlled by the Discharger, the Discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the following items by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Water Board:

- a. existence of this Order, and
- b. the status of the Discharger's annual fee account.

10. Vested Rights

This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to persons or property, nor protect the Discharger from liability under federal, state, or local laws, nor create a vested right for the Discharger to continue the waste discharge.

11. Inspections

In accordance with the provisions of Water Code section 13267(c), the Discharger shall permit authorized staff of the Regional Water Board:

- a. entry upon premises in which a waste source is located or in which any required records are kept;
- b. access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
- c. inspection of monitoring equipment or records; and
- d. sampling of any discharge.

12. Noncompliance

In the event the Discharger is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this Order due to:

- a. breakdown of waste treatment equipment;
- b. accidents caused by human error or negligence; or
- c. other causes such as acts of nature

the Discharger shall notify the Executive Officer by telephone as soon as they or their agents have knowledge of the incident and shall confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written notification shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the noncompliance and shall indicate the steps taken to correct the problem and the dates thereof, and the steps being taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

13. Accidental Spills, Incident Reporting and Monitoring

Pursuant to Water Code section 13267, the Discharger shall comply with the Contingency Planning and Notification Requirements Order No. 74-151 and the Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R1-2007-0025 and any modifications to these documents as specified by the Executive Officer. Such documents are attached to this Order and incorporated herein. Chemical, bacteriological, and

bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services.

- a. Order No. 74-151 requires immediate incident reporting of unintentional or accidental spills (including Emergency Response actions) and diligent action to abate the effects of the discharge. Written confirmation of the incident is required within two weeks of notification.
- b. General Monitoring and Reporting Provisions require sampling and analysis performance criteria in addition to compliance reporting criteria and timeframes.

14. Revision of Requirements

The Regional Water Board will review this Order periodically and may revise requirements when necessary.

15. This Regional Water Board requires the Discharger to file a report of waste discharge at least 120 days before making any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

Certification

I, Catherine E. Kuhlman, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on June 14, 2007

Catherine E. Kuhlman
Executive Officer

Exhibit 1

Groundwater Water Quality Objectives

Constituent	Water Quality Objective (µg/L)	Background Level ¹ (µg/L)	Citation
Pentachlorophenol	1.0 ²	< 0.2	CalDHS primary MCL
Tetrachlorophenol	1.0	< 0.2	USEPA taste and odor threshold, USEPA Gold Book
Benzene	1.0 ³	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Toluene	42	< 0.5	USEPA taste and odor threshold, Federal Register 54(97):2206422138
Xylenes	17	< 0.5	USEPA taste and odor threshold, Federal Register 54(97):2206422138
Ethylbenzene	29	< 0.5	USEPA taste and odor threshold, Federal Register 54(97):2206422138
Gasoline	50	<50	Taste and odor threshold is 5 µg/L, but detection limit is 50 µg/L and is controlling
MTBE	5	<0.5	CalDHS secondary MCL
Diesel	100	<50	Published literature provides a taste and odor threshold of 100 µg/L
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.5 ⁴	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Trichloroethene	5 ⁵	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Tetrachloroethene	5 ⁶	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	5	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	10	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	6	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Methyl ethyl ketone	4200	< 0.5	USEPA IRIS Reference Dose as a drinking water level
1,2-Dichloropropane	5 ⁷	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Dichloromethane	5 ⁸	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL
Carbon tetrachloride	0.5 ⁹	< 0.5	CalDHS primary MCL

¹ Background concentrations of the constituents of concern are below their respective minimum detection levels.

² The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) Public Health Goal (PHG) for pentachlorophenol in drinking water is 0.4 µg/L.

³ The OEHHA PHG for benzene in drinking water is 0.15 µg/L.

⁴ The OEHHA PHG for 1,2-dichloroethane in drinking water is 0.4 µg/L.

⁵ The OEHHA PHG for trichloroethene in drinking water is 0.8 µg/L.

⁶ The OEHHA PHG for tetrachloroethene in drinking water is 0.06 µg/L.

⁷ The OEHHA PHG for 1,2-dichloropropane is 0.5 µg/L.

⁸ The OEHHA PHG for dichloromethane is 4 µg/L.

⁹ The OEHHA PHG for carbon tetrachloride is 0.1 µg/L.

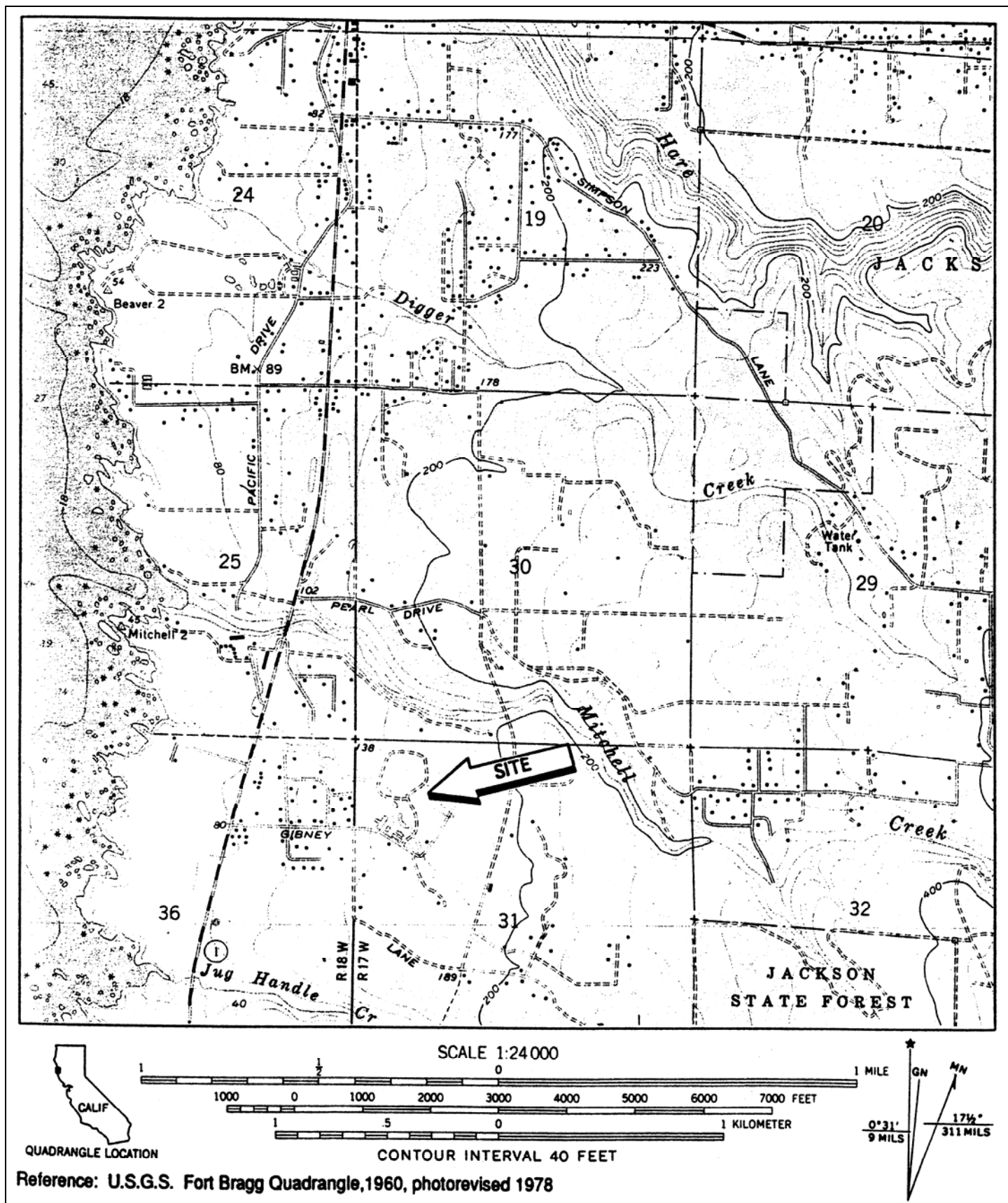


Figure 1: Site Location Map (Excerpted from Geraghty & Miller, Inc.).

Part of Waste Discharge Requirements R1-2007-0024, WDID 1B80054OMEN, for Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC, Former Fort Bragg Sawmill, June 14, 2007.

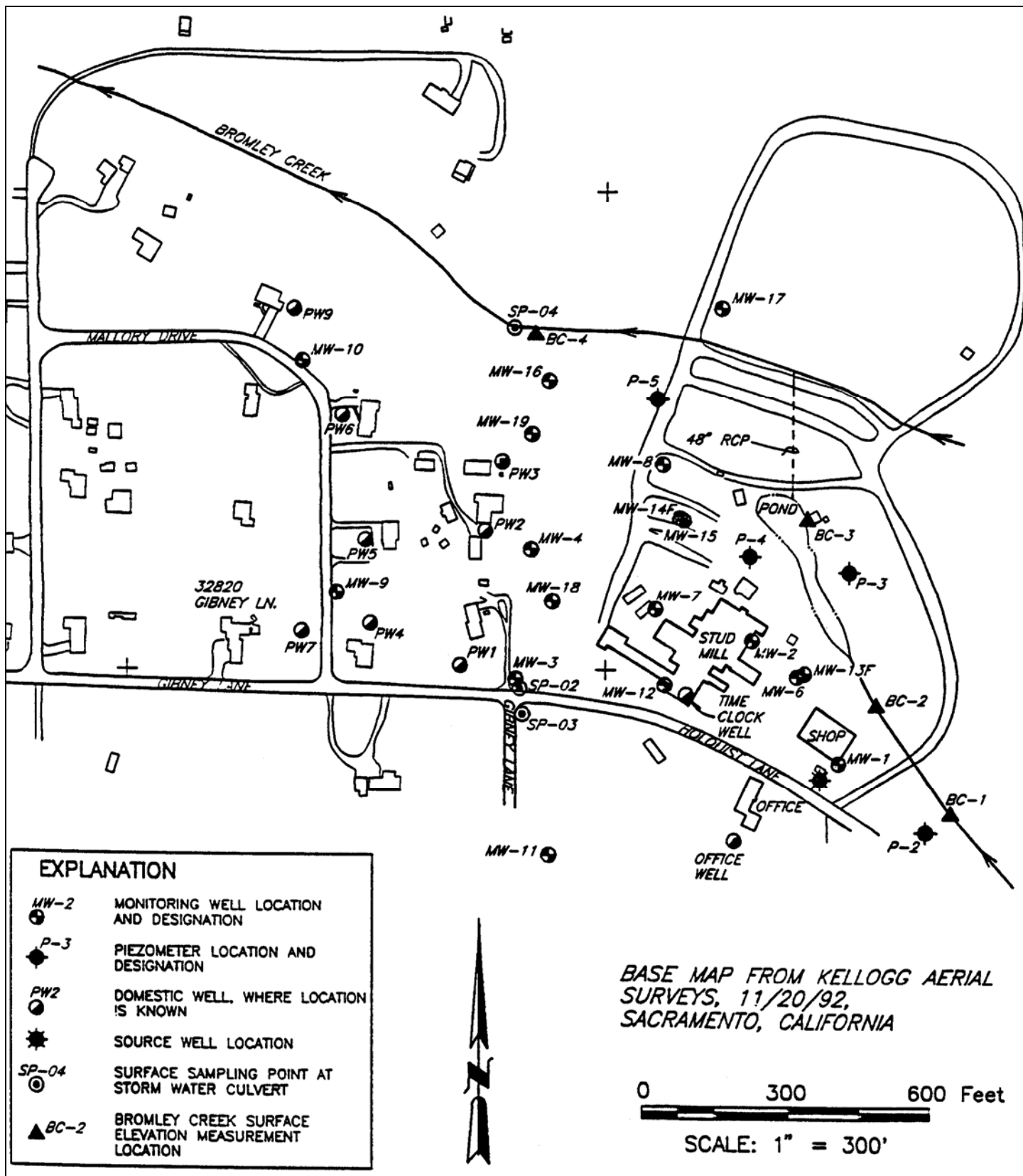


Figure 2: Site Map (Excerpted from SHN).

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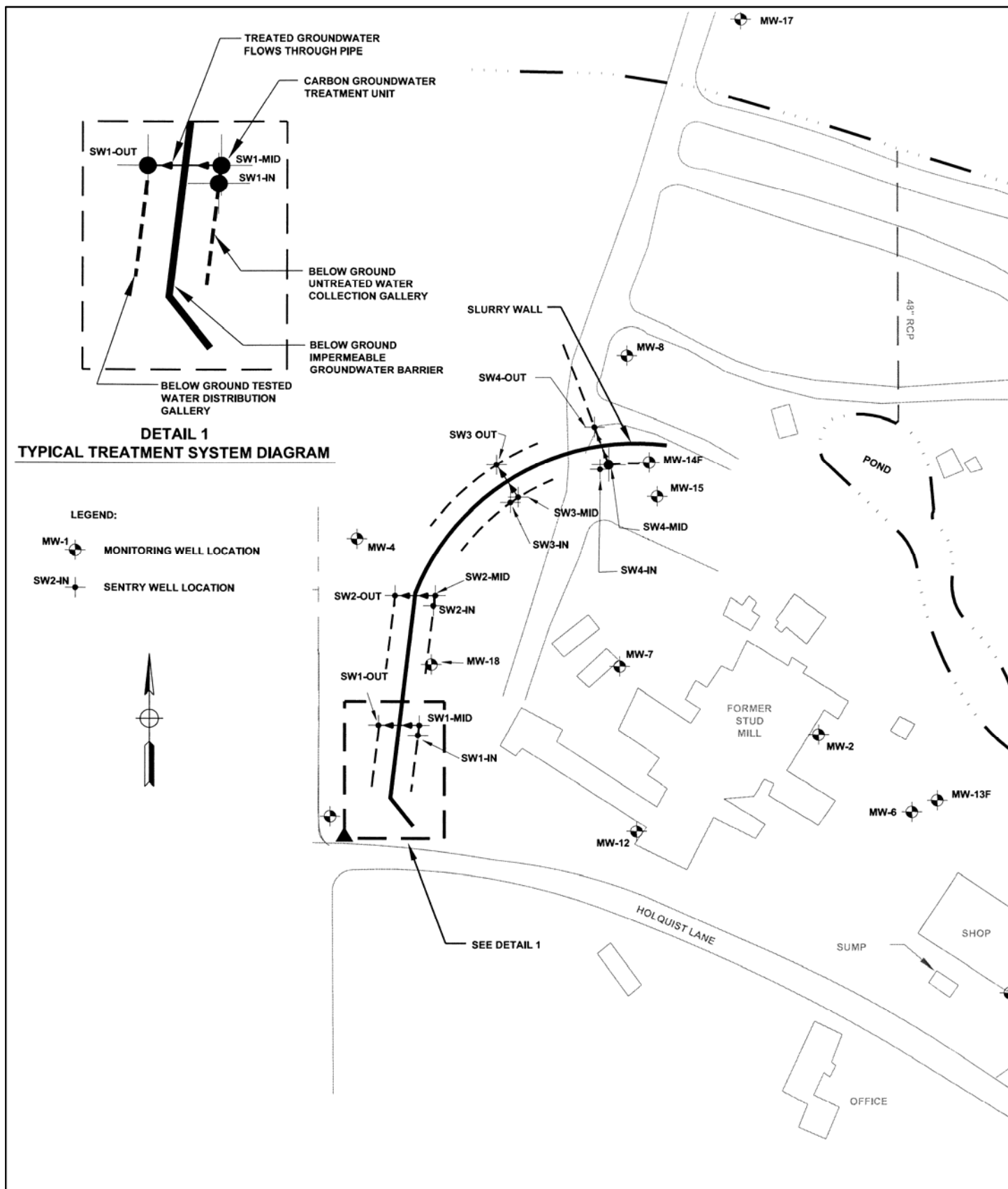


Figure 3: Funnel and Gate Location (Excerpted from Winzler & Kelly Consulting Engineers).

Part of Waste Discharge Requirements R1-2007-0024, WDID 1B80054OMEN, for Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC, Former Fort Bragg Sawmill, June 14, 2007.